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John W. Weeks

[New York]

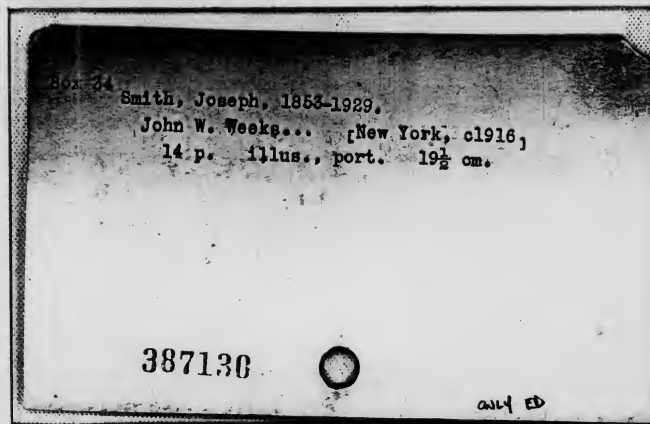
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Gift of the President

304

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Box 34

JOHN W WEEKS

A MERICAN
from head
to heel — from
skin to marrow





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JOHN W WEEKS

By JOSEPH SMITH

THE man who is in touch and sympathy with the human currents of his age, who recognizes the ills of his day and can prescribe the cures or palliatives for them, who is not willing to allow one evil to crowd out the consideration of others, that man with his intuitive knowledge of the strength and weakness of his fellows, will go far. He inspires faith and by his patience and tact gathers behind himself a moving force, a volume of convinced public opinion that enables him to achieve results.

Such a man is CAPTAIN JOHN WINGATE WEEKS, Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. CAPTAIN WEEKS — you'll get closer to his heart by giving him his naval title than by intoning his senatorial dignity—is not a new man to public life. During these years of agitation and clamor he has been working, not spell-binding. In these parlous days of storm and stress and lungs and tongues, he has been on the job attending everlastingly to the business of the country and the interests of his constituents. He has had neither the time nor the taste for decorating stumps or adorning platforms. And yet he can speak and speak wisely and convincingly when necessity demands it and the occasion warrants it. He is more like MCKINLEY than any other public man of the day, in his relations with his fellow men.



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Big, Up-
standing,
Clear-
headed,
Well-
balanced

CAPTAIN WEEKS has never posed as an Ajax defying the lime-light; he knows that a republic and a people are better served by works than words. Being endowed with Yankee gumption and a fine sense of humor and having a long experience of men and matters, he knows the man who saws and sweats gets more out of a tough wood pile than he who swats and swears.

CAPTAIN WEEKS is one of those big, upstanding, clear-headed, well-balanced Yankees, who were more numerous half a century ago than they are today. A sane, self-contained, honorable American, endowed with Yankee humor and horse sense, shrewd and kindly, who loves square dealing and fair-play; who believes in walking and working in the middle of the road in the sight of man and God, ready to share the sunlight of his nature with his fellows. That's CAPTAIN WEEKS.

A Hard
Working
Farmer Boy

It was in the town of Lancaster, in that cradle of men, the Old Granite State, that JOHN WEEKS lived and grew to young manhood; learned how to cut a clean swathe with the best of the hands in the hay-field, and was a hardworking farmer's boy. He was born on his father's farm on April 11, 1860, just three weeks before ULYSSES GRANT moved from St. Louis to Galena to take a clerkship in his father's store—and there's something about WEEKS and his philosophy of life that makes you think of GRANT. WEEKS believes in taking things as they come along and making the best of them—not eternally hunting for opportunities; getting all there is out of opportunities when they arrive. That was the way with GRANT; and that is why GRANT—a plain and silent citizen—got to be the commanding figure of the Civil War instead of some of the military geniuses who could have given him all the trumps in the pack and beaten him in a theoretical game. While these others were pluming themselves as Little Corporals and figuring out involved plans

of campaign—mathematically and technically perfect, and never getting anywhere with them—GRANT was plugging away hard at whatever he had in hand; never worried about the other fellow, but fought it out on that line if it took all summer. SHERMAN said once: "When I go into battle, I am always thinking about what the enemy will do; but GRANT doesn't care a d—n!" That was GRANT—and that is WEEKS.

Up to the time he was seventeen, John worked on the farm—had nothing else in view—except one winter when he taught the district school—an unruly bunch of boys—the terrors of a long line of teachers. The neighbors all said there was just one way to bring the boys to terms—thrash the ring-leaders right away. So the first day John picked out the biggest and most obstreperous youngster, thrashed him properly, carried him outdoors and dropped him in the yard. It was the son of the chairman of the school committee and John was not popular thenceforth with the authorities, but he ran his school.

Ran the
District
School

From the wholesome atmosphere of the North Country, he went direct to the NAVAL ACADEMY at ANNAPOLIS. Life was not all cakes and ale for the Annapolis man in the early eighties. We did not have much of a navy in those days, nor did we have the knowledge and appreciation of the necessity and value of one. We were too busy expanding our purse and our pride to waste much time on armies and navies, and so we neglected both. Out of a graduating class of 70 cadets only ten received commissions and the other 60 were sent adrift. JOHN W. WEEKS did not belong to the Upper Ten.



ANNAPOLIS 1881

JOHN W WEEKS

7

ANNAPOLIS makes Americans. It perfects their bodies and disciplines their minds, it graduates officers and gentlemen, and they are taught to understand that the standard which constitutes an American gentleman bearing the commission of the United States, is character and conduct, not birth or condition. The boy who stands the tests of ANNAPOLIS for four years and graduates must be sound in body, mind and soul. From this school JOHN WEEKS graduated with honor and credit and passed into the service of his country. If the indifference and folly of that day subsequently deprived the navy of the services of WEEKS and his 59 classmates they did turn back into the civil life of the Republic a leaven of worth and efficiency with a distinct value, a leaven with a lofty conception of citizenship and duty.

Annapolis
Makes
Americans

This is the why and the because of WEEKS and the manner of man he is. Of good American stock, born in the most AMERICAN of New England States, raised in the wholesome atmosphere of a New Hampshire country town, he went in the formative period of his manhood to the most American of schools, the ANNAPOLIS NAVAL ACADEMY, and later to spend two years in active service. The resultant product could only be one thing—a man who could be trusted under all circumstances and conditions, a highminded, honorable gentleman, a patriot in peace and war, a public servant who could be depended upon in every crisis, a man whose word was as good as his bond, a clean-living, clean-thinking, hard-working, liberty-loving democratic AMERICAN.

A Patriot
in Peace
and War

It is always a hard job to keep a good man down, but it's a good deal harder to discourage or defeat a New Hampshire Yankee. When JOHN WEEKS retired from the navy he did not waste any time mourning the ingratitude of republics. He went to work in Florida as a surveyor, running down the lines of old

Pluck and
Patience,
Physique
and
Humor



ANNAPOLIS 1891

JOHN W WEEKS

7

ANNAPOLIS makes Americans. It perfects their bodies and disciplines their minds, it graduates officers and gentlemen, and they are taught to understand that the standard which constitutes an American gentleman bearing the commission of the United States, is character and conduct, not birth or condition. The boy who stands the tests of ANNAPOLIS for four years and graduates must be sound in body, mind and soul. From this school JOHN WEEKS graduated with honor and credit and passed into the service of his country. If the indifference and folly of that day subsequently deprived the navy of the services of WEEKS and his 59 classmates they did turn back into the civil life of the Republic a leaven of worth and efficiency with a distinct value, a leaven with a lofty conception of citizenship and duty.

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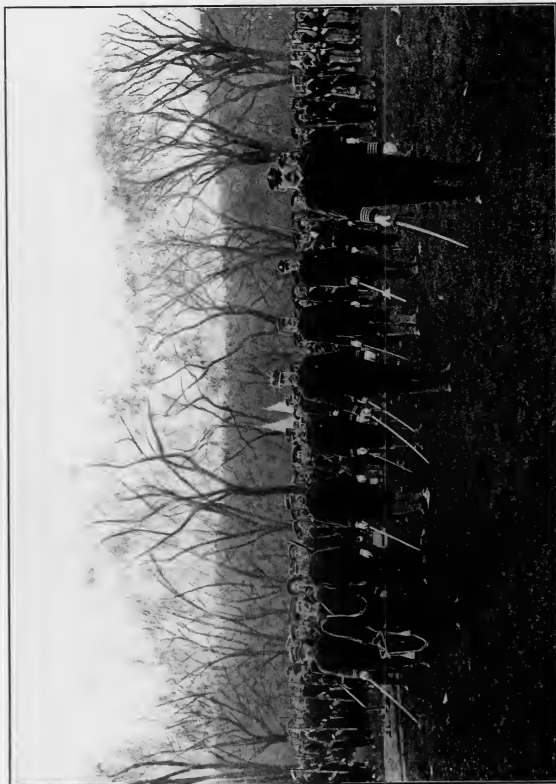
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 Capt. Weeks returning to the Governor of Massachusetts the colors of the Naval Brigade under his command—the first of all to volunteer for the United States Service on declaration of war with Spain

Spanish land grants. If any good man and true wants to learn what good hard work means, let him tackle a job surveying in the steamy airs and oozy lands of Florida. To hike through the swamp and jungle under a sub-tropical sun in the pleasant companionship of reptiles and insect pests, packing rod and chain and theodolite is a job that calls for pluck and patience, physique and humor. WEEKS did it and stuck to his job. He needed the money and wasn't afraid of hard work; and his experience then has enabled him to have a soft spot in his heart for every fellow sweating under a hard job and in a tight place. His Annapolis experience with the hard knocks afterwards in Florida helped to give him the National spirit which is so marked a feature of his character. It helps to explain, too, how it happens that he is the first New England Republican since JAMES G. BLAINE, to catch the spirit of the West. There is no state in which you cannot find JOHN WEEKS' adoring friends.

CAPTAIN WEEKS has succeeded in business and politics because of his gifts and graces plus hard work and square dealing. While he is firm in his convictions, unyielding in his principles and vigorous in upholding them, he has the art of compelling the admiration and affection of his opponents, who soon realize the sincerity and honesty of his views. He knows how to concede without cutting, to rebuke without reviling, to speak without stinging.

When he began his civil career and became immersed in business, he could not forget his first love, the sea and the ship; and feeling that the day might come when his country could utilize the knowledge and training gained in ANNAPOLIS, he joined the MASSACHUSETTS NAVAL BRIGADE and became its commander and captain. When the Spanish War did come he served as lieutenant in the volunteer naval forces. Though out of the service, his heart is still with it. When WILSON

Volunteered
 for Service



Copyright by MARR 1899
 Capt. Weeks returning to the Governor of Massachusetts the colors of the Naval Brigade under his command—the first of all to volunteer for the United States Service on declaration of war with Spain

JOHN W WEEKS

9

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 for Service

bungled us into war with MEXICO through seizing Vera Cruz, CAPTAIN WEEKS was one of the first to volunteer for service in the hostilities which seemed to be at hand. He is primarily a sailor and a naval officer. In Congress no man's advice and counsel are valued so highly for he brings to this subject knowledge, intelligence, sympathy and a patriotic pride; and no man there is more indifferent to his own political fortunes, when it comes to a question of supporting or opposing a measure. Like GRANT again—he doesn't care a d—n!

Never
Afraid to
Tackle
Anything

In Congress he has had an extraordinary record—partly because he got the reputation at the very start of being a hard worker and a live wire—never afraid to tackle anything that came his way. The first year he served on the House Committee on BANKING and CURRENCY—naturally enough—having been a banker by trade. But there's a good story about the way he got his first committee assignment.

He lives at Newton, just outside of Boston, and was president of the Newton Club—a neighborhood affair. The club had built a new house and in order to raise the money had mortgaged its property and sold its bonds to its members at par. Three or four years later the finance committee decided the expenses of the organization were too high and complained to the president about it.

Burned the
Debt

"Well," said WEEKS, "why don't you get rid of your bonds?" "Easily said, but how can we do it?"

"I'll show you," he replied. "You invite all the bondholders to come into this room, bringing their bonds with them."

A little later the bondholders appeared with their bonds. Weeks made a speech and when he finished everybody followed him downstairs where there was a roaring fire, and in a minute nothing was left of the club's \$30,000 indebtedness.

When WEEKS was elected to Congress, "Uncle Joe" CANNON asked his predecessor, SAMUEL L. POWERS, what kind of man he was. Sam told him about the Newton Club, adding that WEEKS wanted a place on the naval committee.

Banking and
Currency

"My God," said "Uncle Joe", "I can't put a man like that on the naval committee; he must go on banking and currency. Why, that man in a few years will wipe out the national debt."

The next Congress "Uncle Joe", without saying a word to him about it, put him on the COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. "Why did you do that?" WEEKS asked, "I'm not a farmer."

Agriculture
and
Conservation

"That is why", replied "Uncle Joe". "These eastern states want a Forest Reserve bill. They are in a wrangle among themselves—can't agree on anything—and I don't like any of the bills they have proposed. I've put you on that committee as a business man to straighten out the tangle. If you'll tell me when the committee agrees on a businesslike proposition, I'll take your judgment and stand by you." WEEKS believed in conservation, although he hadn't had a chance to do much at it. But taking "Uncle Joe's" cue, he shaped up a sensible bill; got the Speaker to bring it to a vote; carried it through the House, and after two years' hard fighting put it on the statutes.

That was his first big stunt. Here is another along the same line. It was WEEKS who put on the statutes the bill for protecting migratory and insectivorous birds after it had been floundering hopelessly in Congress for nine years. The fact that experts estimated the loss suffered from insects by the farmers of the country at \$800,000,000 annually, and that this tremendous loss was due to the destruction of birds by pothunters, made little impression on people or Congress until WEEKS took the matter up. Two years later a law was enacted which was

Saves the
Farmers'
Crops

described by the secretary of the National Association of Audubon Societies as "the most important legislation ever passed in the history of game conservation in this country." WEEKS was responsible in the House—McLEAN in the Senate.

Postal
Savings
Banks

It was WEEKS who licked into shape the Postal Savings Bank proposition while he was chairman of the POST OFFICE COMMITTEE in the House. He hadn't approved the schemes outlined by the theorists; but he did believe in keeping faith with the people, so he set himself to work on a bill which would accomplish that while meeting his own ideas as to effectiveness. No one believed he could do it; but he did, and a good job it was.

An Extra-
ordinary
Legislative
Feat

Another example: WEEKS has the solitary distinction of having put one of the big appropriation bills through Congress exactly as reported from the committee without a change of any kind whatever. It was in 1910, while he was chairman of the COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICES and POST ROADS, and the bill was the postoffice appropriation bill, carrying appropriations aggregating \$240,000,000. The measure went through both branches just as it came from JOHN WEEKS' hands, without the change of so much as a single comma. This is the only instance, so far as anyone in Washington can remember, of a committee chairman having turned a trick like that.

A year ago the Post Office bill in other hands was so badly mussed that they had to abandon it altogether and pass a resolution continuing this year's appropriations for another year.

Helped
Prevent
Financial
Panics

But what's the use of stringing out the list. As a member of the MONETARY COMMISSION in 1908 he had as much as anyone to do with framing the Emergency Currency bill, under which we escaped a financial panic in August, 1914, after the European war broke out; and it was his work in the Senate the year before the war that saved the FEDERAL RESERVE ACT, and made

a practicable law out of the crazy panic breeder that the WILSON administration tried to put through Congress.

CAPTAIN WEEKS was never a spectacular Congressman. He is a worker, not a word-monger; he wastes neither time nor talent in useless discussion. His aim is to get results, to place useful legislation on the statute books, to allay public discontent by remedial measures and to keep the wheels of government running without friction and without waste and extravagance. In the recent days of excitement and agitation, when a great deal of demagoguery was masquerading as patriotism and garrulous humbug was posing as reform, his humor, good sense and knowledge of human nature guided him by the shoals of roaring revolution and the rocks of dull reaction. He kept his balance and smiled at both poseur and stand-patter.

A shrewd, kindly, level-headed, self-respecting Yankee, devoted to his country and loyal to his duties and responsibilities, his education and training have taught him that law, order and discipline are as essential to the progress and prosperity of the nation, as financial sanity and social peace are to its industrial and commercial success. He can recognize financial heresy and political humbug no matter how cleverly disguised, and he is not to be fooled by the fine words that butter no parsnips. His good sense and good humor, the admirable temper he brings to the discussion of measures, his courtesy and consideration for others and his thorough mastery of the questions he advocates and the legislation he opposes have brought him respect and confidence.

He is looked on as an authority in FINANCE, in SHIPPING, in BUSINESS, in NAVAL and MILITARY affairs, in POST OFFICE and POST ROADS, in FOREIGN RELATIONS, in almost everything except law—and he doesn't pretend to know much about law. But he's a

A Worker
Not a Word-
monger

The Habit
of Success

hard worker, a steady driver, a straight-away talker, a hard hitter, a shrewd organizer, and a lovable fellow all around—besides courage and pluck up to the very limit of human endurance—and the habit of success.

He is a man's man, he wears well, he is a permanent fixture in the affections of his hosts of friends. He is a public man whom it will pay to watch for he will go far and he is a sound and trustworthy American product, AMERICAN FROM HIS HEAD TO HIS HEEL AND FROM HIS SKIN TO HIS MARROW. The world knows no better type than that.

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